GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3771
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2001
TARIFF HIKE BY PAY CHANNELS
GUNIPATI RAMAIAH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cable subscribers are suffering due to increase in tariff by pay channels like Star, ESPN, ZEE TV etc.;

(b) whether the Government propose to put control on the tariff structure being imposed by these channels; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (c): There are no provisions in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 or the Rules framed thereunder to regulate either subscription charges levied by the Pay Channels/Cable Operators or thecharges payable by the Cable Operators to the TV Broadcasting Companies. These charges are purely a contractual affair between the Broadcasting Companies, Cable Operators and the subscribers, and the rates are market driven. Government does not regulate the charges levied by the Broadcasting Companies or the Cable Operators.